

## The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 25, 2019

## President Nez and Delegate Crotty encourage NHA employees to construct more homes to instill hope and resilience in Navajo communities

**PHOENIX** – On Thursday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez was invited to address Navajo Housing Authority employees at the enterprise's annual meeting in Phoenix, Ariz., where he spoke and reminded the employees of their critical role in re-instilling hope and resilience by building more homes and strengthening communities on the Navajo Nation.

"Let's continue working together and being positive. Let's demonstrate to Congress and others that we can build more homes and be a stronger Nation by helping one another for our people," President Nez said.

He recalled the teachings of Navajo elders and urged the employees to honor the resilience of their ancestors who survived tough challenges such as the Long Walk, and reminded them of the life changing atrocities that were inflicted on Navajo people prior to and during the Long Walk.



PHOTO: President Jonathan Nez speaking at the Navajo Housing Authority annual meeting in Phoenix, Ariz. on July 25, 2019.

"It's important that we remember that after the Long Walk our people united, helped one another, and used the power of prayer to return home and rebuild. Now look at our people today — we are the largest and most influential Indigenous nation in the world and it's because our ancestors didn't give up," said President Nez.

Through the process of constructing more homes for Navajo families, President Nez said NHA plays a major role in helping the Navajo people to overcome "modern day monsters" like alcohol and drug addiction, depression, suicide, and other issues that affect many people.

"There is a great sense of pride that comes with owning a home and having a place to raise your children and build a good life and you all are part of creating that for our Navajo people," he added.

Although he was unable to attend due to prior engagements, Vice President Myron Lizer also offered his appreciation to the employees and expressed his continued support for their initiatives.

Honorable Amber Kanazbah Crotty, member of the 24th Navajo Nation Council and part of the Sexual Assault Prevention Subcommittee, also spoke about the importance of partnering and working together within our communities to address the issues of missing and murdered Indigenous relatives.

"As we bring to light the issue of Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives, we have to keep the survivors and families in mind. Many need housing as they transition back into the normalcy of every day life. It is important that leadership begin creating pathways to support and house sexual and domestic violence victims, survivors of trafficking, and families who take care of the surviving children," said Delegate Crotty.

During Delegate Crotty's presentation, she touched on data surrounding MMDR and MMIW, and stressed that having a sufficient home for survivors is key to healing and fostering an environment to create positive memories as they move forward in their lives.

The Nez-Lizer Administration supports the Navajo Housing Authority employees and looks forward to working together to build homes and make Navajo communities stronger and more resilient.

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